

**Testimony of Cedric Edwards, Father and Participant  
Fatherhood Initiative Program  
Madonna Place, Inc.  
240 Main Street  
Norwich, CT 06360**

**Prepared for the Appropriations Committee  
Public Hearing – February 14, 2014  
Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Midterm Budget Adjustments**

My name is Cedric Edwards. I have been with the Madonna Place Fatherhood Program since September, 2013. I have had continuous support from the program with helping me getting my life back in order. They encouraged me to go back to school and now I am a student at Three Rivers Community College. The fatherhood program has also assisted me with finding employment.

Since being in the program, I have found ways to be a better father to my 6 year old daughter. For example, when I was in half way house after rehab, they helped me with making contact with her. Now I see her every day. I am even able to help her with her homework, bike rides, snow ball fights, the whole fatherhood gambit. Time with my daughter keeps me grounded.

The "24/7 Dad" classes opened my eyes to what being a dad is all about. Being a responsible dad and making time for my daughter that is just our time is the best thing that ever could have happened to me. I love every minute of it.

Without the Madonna Place Fatherhood Initiative Program, I don't know what I would have done or where I'd be. It is a great program for dads in Connecticut. Please make sure they are fully funded.

Thank you for your time,

Cedric Edwards